

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 6, 2006. Favorable reconsideration of this application, allowance and passage to issuance are respectfully requested.

The applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in the Office Action that claims 88-92 and 99-101 have been allowed, that claims 9, 23-27, 36, and 40-47 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and that claims 93-97 and 102-104 would also be allowable if rewritten or amended to address rejections under Section 112.

Accordingly, the applicant has hereby made the following amendments: (a) claims 23 and 40 have been rewritten in independent form; (b) independent claims 93 and 102 have been amended to remove the basis for the Section 112 rejections; (c) independent claims 99 and 100, although formally allowed and not subject to the Section 112 rejections, have also been amended to remove the same language therein listing multiple structures; and (d) all independent claims, including those allowed, have been amended as to their lettered paragraph formatting. It is accordingly submitted that claims 23-27, 40-47, 88-97 and 99-104 are now in condition for formal allowance.

The Office Action also rejected original claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, 10, and 31-34, as assertedly being obvious over Simpson et al U.S. Patent 5,161,275, in view of Triarsi et al U.S. Patent 6,170,596 and Lohr et al U.S. Patent 3,695,696. Claims 14-22 were rejected as assertedly being obvious over the combination of Simpson et al, Triarsi et al and Lohr et al, further in view of Doehrer U.S. Patent 6,626,259. Claims 28-30 and 98 were rejected as assertedly being obvious over the combination of Simpson et al and Triarsi et al. If and to the extent these combinations of references are deemed to still be applicable to the claims as now amended, the applicant

respectfully traverses these rejections and request reconsideration in light of the following remarks.

Of the rejected claims, only Claims 1, 28 and 98 are independent claims. Claim 98 has been cancelled. Independent Claims 1 and 28 have each been amended to set forth that the unitary shell is molded intimately with and about the attachment plates for integrating the attachment plates unitarily into the shell. It is respectfully submitted that this feature patentably distinguishes each such independent claim over the cited references as applied, or in any other combination with each other or with any other references of record.

The Office Action asserts that the Lohr et al. reference would teach and make obvious the provision of restraint strap attachment plates in the seat structure of Simpson et al. The Office Action asserts that elements 46, 52, 74 and 78 in Lohr et al. constitute attachment plates which meet the recitations of the present claims. However, while Lohr et al. describes element 74 as being a "plate section", it is described as being "beneath the front portion of the seat". Element 46 is described as being a mounting bracket, element 52 is described as being a "depressed channel," and element 78 is described as being a "panel" welded to the seat. Thus, the applicant submits that it goes beyond the fair meaning and scope of the disclosure to a person of ordinary skill in the art to construe these elements as constituting "attachment plates" as claimed in the present application.

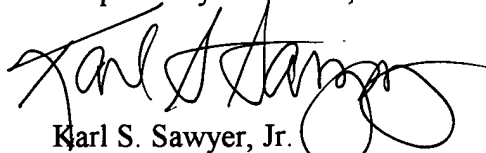
Perhaps more importantly, regardless of whether these elements are construed as "attachment plates," it is clear that (a) the primary Simpson et al. reference does not teach or suggest the provision of attachment plates in any form and (b) the identified elements in Lohr et al. are neither taught nor suggested to be intimately molded with a unitarily molded shell such that the shell is molded about the attachment plates and thereby integrates the plates unitarily

into the shell. On the contrary, Lohr et al. merely teaches that their identified elements are bracketed or welded to the shell in the Lohr et al. structure. Thus, even assuming a combination of the teachings of Lohr et al. into Simpson et al. were to be attempted, there is no suggestion or motivation to be derived from either reference, or from any of the other references of record, to mold the seat shell intimately with and about the attachment plates for integrating the plates unitarily into the shell as now recited in each of independent Claims 1 and 28. It is respectfully submitted that this feature of the present invention is therefore not obvious from the cited references, regardless of how they may be combined, whereby the present claims are submitted to patentably define over the cited art.

Applicant believes that no added filing fees are required by the present Amendment. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment should be charged to or any overpayments credited to Deposit Account 18-1215 of the undersigned attorney.

For all of the reasons set forth above, it is accordingly submitted respectfully that the present application should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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